

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EURE-00 OMB-01 IO-10 EB-07 /096 W

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P R 191710Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5176

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1099

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0188

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FI, SW, IC

SUBJECT: SWEDISH-FINNISH NEUTRALITY DEBATE" AT NORDIC COUNCIL

REF: STOCKHOLM 0792

1. ISSUE OF SWEDISH NEUTRALITY AROSE IN FORMAL DEBATE  
AT NORDIC COUNCIL FEB 16 IN SPEECH GIVEN BY ERKKI  
TUOMIOJA, FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF PAR-  
LIAMENT. TUOMIOJA SAID THAT THE NORDIC AREA IS BEING  
AFFECTED BY NEW TENDENCIES AND DEVELOPMENTS  
TODAY, AND ADDED,

QUOTE: THEN WE HAVE SWEDEN, WHERE CERTAIN EVENTS HAVE  
CAUSED GREAT SURPRISE IN FINLAND. IT WAS RE-  
CENTLY LEARNED THAT SWEDEN'S GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN  
CERTAIN GUARANTEES EVEN FOR WARTIME DELIVERIES TO  
FOUR NATO COUNTRIES, WHICH HAVE INVESTIGATED THE POS-  
SIBILITY OF BUYING VIGGEN PLANES. IT IS NATURAL THAT  
SUCH A POLITICAL LINE-LAYING AWAKENED INTEREST AND  
EVEN ANXIETY IN FINLAND, WHERE ONE HAS ASKED ONESELF,  
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TO WHAT EXTENT THIS IS ANY LONGER A VILAIN AND CREDIBLE

NEUTRAL POLICY. ALSO OF INTEREST IS SWEDEN'S EARLIER DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WESTERN OIL IMPORTING NATIONS' COOPERATION WITHIN THE IEA. FURTHERMORE THE SWEDISH DEFENSE AUTHORITIES' ACTIVITY IN PUBLICIZING OPINIONS AND SPECULATIONS SHOULD BE MENTIONED, WHICH CONCERN AMONG OTHER THINGS FINLAND'S ROLE IN AN EVENTUAL CRISIS. SUCH STRATEGIC MILITARY THINKING IS PERHAPS NOT IN ITSELF AS SURPRISING AS THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT WAS PUBLICIZED. UNQUOTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO TUOMIJA, ALLAN HERNELIUS, SWEDISH MODERATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, REFERRED TO THE DEMARI ARTICLE AND SAID, "WE FIND THE NEWSPAPER'S SUGGESTION THAT SWEDEN IS INVOLVED IN A REORIENTATION TOWARD THE WEST OF ITS ALLIANCE-FREE NEUTRALITY POLICY COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED AND DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN." AS A MEMBER OF THE SWEDISH OPPOSITION, HERNELIUS SAID HE WISHED TO SUPPORT THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER. HE REJECTED THE STATEMENTS OF TUOMIJA AND DEMARI ABOUT SWEDISH NEUTRALITY AND SAID THAT "THE SOVIET UNION, WITH WHICH ALL SEEK GOOD RELATIONS, DOES NOT BELONG TO THE NORDIC AREA."

3. ON FEBRUARY 17, FINNISH PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA TOLD A PACKED PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD BEEN "SURPRISED" WHEN SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME HAD TOLD HIM, IN A SUNDAY MEETING AT COPENHAGEN'S AIRPORT, "WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN REYKJAVIK." HAVING EARLIER TOLD FINNISH NEWSMEN THAT THE DEMARI ARTICLE WAS "UNWISELY FORMULATED," SORSA TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT "BETTER ARTICLES HAD APPEARED IN THAT NEWSPAPER." HE DECLINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OF HIS, HIS GOVERNMENT'S OR HIS PARTY'S INTERPRETATION OF WHETHER RECENT SWEDISH ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS WERE CONSISTENT WITH "NEUTRALITY." MARTIN

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